

**Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education
Annual Report to the Legislature and
California Postsecondary Education Commission
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

*"To protect and serve the needs of students
attending private postsecondary educational institutions."*



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State of California

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Bureau Accomplishments

As directed by SB 1544 (Figueroa, Chapter 740, Statutes of 2004), the Department of Consumer Affairs (Department) appointed an Operations and Administrative Monitor (Monitor) in January 2005 to review the Bureau's operations. The Monitor's report, which was released in September 2005, highlighted several deficiencies within the Bureau and the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act. The report found that the Bureau could not effectively implement its mandated responsibilities without major changes to the Reform Act.

In response to the Monitor's report and the request of the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions and Consumer Protection, the Department worked for four months with the State and Consumer Services Agency and the Joint Committee on a bill to completely overhaul the Reform Act. That bill, SB 1473 (Figueroa), was held in the Suspense File in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Another measure, AB 2810 (Liu), was proposed to extend the sunset date of the Bureau from July 1, 2007 until July 1, 2008, while establishing a working group to study again the Bureau's operations and enabling statute. The Governor vetoed that measure, with a plan to release a comprehensive reform package and work with the Legislature to pass legislation in early 2007 that will provide needed reforms and student protections.

Despite the inherent challenge to implement an operationally complex statute while faced with serious resource constraints, the Bureau accomplished the following in fiscal year 2005-06:

- Continued to hold quarterly meetings of its Advisory Committee to provide feedback on Bureau policies and operations, and ideas for structural and statutory reforms.
- Continued to make improvements to its Web site, including updating the Bureau's Strategic Plan, posting information on the Advisory Committee, and redesigning the listing of various licensing applications to better serve schools seeking to start up new or expand existing operations.
- Developed and published a brochure in English and Spanish educating consumers about private postsecondary educational opportunities in California. The brochure also provides information to assist prospective students when making a decision concerning a school.
- Permanently established a centralized process for the intake and handling of all consumer complaints involving private postsecondary schools through the Department's Complaint Mediation Program.

- Continued to audit Annual Report information from schools to determine whether annual fees had been accurately paid to the Bureau, netting an additional \$200,000 to support essential Bureau functions.
- Enhanced the Bureau's Schools Automated Information Link (SAIL) database to better track -- for collection purposes -- delinquent annual fees owed by institutions.
- Processed 1,444 licensing-related applications from schools to allow the start-up and expansion of educational services provided to students.
- Received the highest rating possible from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the Bureau's performance in monitoring private and public schools that provide educational services to veterans.
- Pursued administrative actions against 23 schools for various violations of Bureau laws and regulations, ranging from non-payment of fees to failure to meet minimum standards for educational quality, or health and safety. Five of these actions were the direct result of a multi-agency investigation focused on the educational practices of truck driving schools.
- Initiated investigations and completed 28 site inspections of institutions to verify compliance with the laws that establish minimum standards for educational quality.
- Disbursed \$1.2 million in Student Tuition Recovery Fund claims to 189 students who lost money they paid for their education as a result of a school closure.
- Increased outreach to high school students by partnering with the Department's Consumer and Community Relations Division.

Overview of the Bureau

California's private postsecondary market is estimated to be the largest in the nation. In addition to its general contribution to the various tax bases in California, this market significantly contributes to the state economy by preparing adults for jobs in California. The private postsecondary education sector responds to the needs of business and industry, often filling a need not met by public sector institutions.

Purpose

The Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (Bureau) approves and regulates private postsecondary and vocational institutions in California. Presently, there are approximately 1,500 Bureau-approved private educational institutions operating in California, serving approximately 400,000 students.

History

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) assumed regulatory responsibility for the private postsecondary and vocational education sector on January 1, 1998. Assembly Bill 71 (Chapter 78, Statutes of 1997) provided for the transfer of responsibility from the former Council for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (Council), to a new Bureau within DCA.

In 2004, Senate Bill 1544 (Chapter 740) was enacted. Effective January 1, 2005, this legislation extended the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act (Reform Act) an additional two and one-half years, until July 1, 2007. In addition, it required the DCA to hire an independent Administrative and Operations Monitor to review and recommend alternatives for improving the Bureau's regulatory role and programs.

Advisory Committee

The Reform Act requires the establishment of an Advisory Committee to advise the Bureau about its administration, licensing, and enforcement functions. A new Committee was created in January 2005. The Committee includes representatives from various institutions, student advocacy groups, and employers. The Committee meets quarterly. (See Appendix.)

Outreach Activities

The Bureau's Web site is a key tool in keeping institutions and students, as well as other interested parties, informed of Bureau activities. The Bureau continues to post information regarding its Advisory Committee, including meeting agendas and minutes from past meetings. This promotes open and participative communication with Bureau stakeholders.

The Bureau has published a brochure, *Private Postsecondary Educational Opportunities in California*, to assist students when making a decision about education at a private postsecondary school. This brochure is in English and Spanish and is posted on the Bureau's website.

The Department's Consumer and Community Relations Division continues to support the Bureau's efforts to reach out to high schools, hosting seminars to discuss private postsecondary educational issues with students. The Bureau also attended 21 outreach and education events.

Funding

The Bureau is a special fund agency that receives no monies from the State's General Fund. The three funding sources for the Bureau are:

- The Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Administration Fund (PPVEAF). Monies are derived from application fees, annual fees, reimbursements for site reviews and compliance inspections, and other miscellaneous fees. Monies appropriated from this fund are expended to process applications; approve, reapprove, and register institutions; conduct enforcement activities; and partially fund the activities related to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund.
- The Federal Trust Fund (FTF). Monies are derived from the performance contract with the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs. Monies are appropriated to process applications for approval, and to conduct site and compliance reviews of institutions enrolling students receiving veteran's education benefits.
- The Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF). Monies are derived from quarterly assessments of institutions. Monies are continuously appropriated to pay eligible student claims when a school closes, and also are appropriated to partially fund the Bureau's administrative expenses for billing and accounting for assessments, and processing claims from students.

The Bureau received and expended the following funds in fiscal year 2005-06:

- PPVEAF collected a total of \$4,890,000 and expended \$5,254,000 of the \$5,930,000 appropriation.
- FTF expended \$1,390,000 of the \$1,390,000 appropriated for expenditure under the Bureau's contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- STRF received a total of \$3,219,000 and expended \$1,398,000, of which \$1,237,000 was for payment of student claims.

Partnerships

The Bureau continues to work with federal and other state agencies that play a role in the regulation of private postsecondary education providers. Such collaboration has included training seminars with the Attorney General's office and U.S. Department of Education, as well as conducting joint investigations of educational institutions with law enforcement and other regulatory or licensing agencies. These efforts also allow the Bureau to evaluate the oversight provided, thereby helping to reduce overlap and improve the Bureau's effectiveness, focusing on critical areas not being addressed by any other agency.

Bureau representatives also attended national conferences and association meetings to network with key stakeholder organizations such as the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) and the California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPS).

Bureau Programs and Workload

The Reform Act requires that the Bureau conduct a qualitative review and assessment of each institution and all of its degree, non-degree, and registered educational programs.

If the Bureau determines that an institution's operational plan is satisfactory and the institution demonstrates that it meets the minimum standards as outlined in the Reform Act, then the Bureau grants a "temporary approval" for degree and non-degree institutions. Once a temporary approval is issued, the institution may commence operations and enroll students. After students are enrolled and instruction begins, the Bureau must conduct an on-site review of the institution to determine whether it is operating in compliance with the minimum standards for educational quality that are set forth in the Reform Act.

The Bureau was confronted with several challenges during fiscal year 2005-06 due to a reduction in staffing resources, declining revenues, and STRF imbalances. Currently, the Bureau is authorized 60.6 positions compared to 71.1 positions in 2001-02. Although impacted by staff reductions over the last several years, the Bureau is working to reduce application backlogs by streamlining review procedures.

Additionally, the Bureau has implemented aggressive fee collection and tracking processes, and placed tighter controls and restrictions on staff expenditures. These efforts have become necessary to ensure the stability of the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Fund, the Bureau's primary operating fund. To further address this situation, the Bureau, at the recommendation of the Administrative and Operations Monitor, gained budget approval to redirect four positions: two to the Department's Complaint Mediation Program, and two to the Department's Office of Information Services. Proposals to restructure or increase the fees that support the Bureau's operations will be addressed as part of any effort to overhaul the Reform Act.

Degree Institutions

The Bureau is responsible for oversight of most private postsecondary educational institutions that award an academic or honorary degree. The Bureau must review and approve each degree program offered to ensure that the degrees awarded by a private institution are equivalent to degrees awarded by other private and public institutions. The review is multifaceted and comprehensive. In addition to the review of curricula, it covers the overall facilities, financial resources of the school, administrative capabilities and faculty qualifications. The evaluation includes the review of a paper application and significant supporting documentation, and the completion of a site visit by Bureau staff and external subject matter experts in each of the disciplines being offered.

Once a school is fully approved (for up to five years), laws and procedures are in place to ensure that the quality of the programs and facilities are maintained. This occurs through a streamlined re-approval process focusing on changes made since the institution's last

approval. In addition, other institutional changes, such as a change of ownership or change of location, require submittal of an application and an expedited review by the Bureau to ensure a seamless transition for the institution and its students.

The Bureau's Degree Program oversees 333 main locations of approved degree schools. In fiscal year 2005-06, the Bureau received 76 applications from degree institutions, and issued 21 approvals. (Schools are required to submit applications for a variety of reasons such as changes to their programs, location, and ownership; therefore, the number of applications received in any fiscal year is greater than the number of institutions.) At the end of the fiscal year, there were 55 applications pending. The average initial application processing time was 61 days.

WASC and Non-WASC Regionally Accredited Institutions

Prior to January 1, 2004 for-profit institutions accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) were exempt from the Reform Act and Bureau oversight if the institution exclusively offered degree programs of two or more years in length. SB 967 (Chapter 340, Statutes 2003) expanded the exemption to include all for-profit schools accredited by WASC, including schools that offer a mix of degree and vocational programs.

In addition, the law changed the Bureau's regulatory role for institutions accredited by five (non-WASC) regional accrediting agencies, located in various parts of the country. SB 967 now exempts these non-WASC regionally accredited institutions from most of the Reform Act, but still requires them to be approved by the Bureau based on a minimal number of requirements largely based on the institution's financial stability and accreditation status. Consequently, SB 967 requires the Bureau to approve these schools, but exempts them from providing protections for students such as enrollment and refund policies, disclosures regarding exam passage rates, transferability of credit, complaint investigation and mediation, and other disclosures that institutions are required to provide.

As a result, non-WASC regionally accredited institutions are exempt; however, are referred to as "Bureau approved," whereas WASC schools are fully exempt.

In addition, a non-WASC regionally accredited institution already approved by the Bureau is only required to provide written notification of any program changes, with no review or investigation provided by the Bureau.

There are currently 32 non-WASC regionally accredited institutions, with 68 branch campuses, operating in California. In fiscal year 2005-06, the Bureau received 0 requests for initial approval from non-WASC regionally accredited institutions; 5 renewals to operate; 5 additional branches and satellite locations; and 37 notifications regarding additional degree, diploma or certificate programs.

In addition, the Bureau received 30 consumer complaints involving non-WASC regionally accredited institutions, all of which were forwarded to the appropriate accreditation body. Although the Bureau is allowed to review these complaints, it has limited enforcement capabilities over these schools due to their exemption from the minimum standards for educational quality established in the Reform Act. The Reform Act appears to limit the Bureau's ability to discipline a non-WASC regionally accredited institution only to cases where the school has lost either its accreditation or federal financial aid eligibility.

Non-Degree (Vocational) Institutions

The Bureau is also responsible for approval (for up to four years) and oversight of private institutions that offer non-degree or vocational programs. The approval process is similar to that outlined above for degree schools, except that a single Bureau employee is responsible for conducting the required site visit of the school. Instead of having external subject matter experts responsible for reviewing a non-degree school's programs, the Bureau relies on letters of support from potential employers of graduates from the school.

The Bureau's Non-Degree Program oversees 1,193 main locations of vocational private postsecondary institutions. In fiscal year 2005-06, the Bureau processed 273 non-degree applications. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 109 applications pending. The average processing time for an initial approval is 85 days. Although impacted by staff reductions, the program has been successful in reducing application backlogs.

The Non-Degree Program also showed 62% of all students attending Bureau approved schools completing the course of instruction and 54% of those graduates placed in a job.

Certificates of Authorization

An institution that offers non-degree programs must ensure that each instructor and administrator employed by the school has been issued a certificate of authorization (COA) by the Bureau. Certificates for instructors, assistant directors, financial aid directors and officers are valid for three years. Certificates for directors do not expire.

During fiscal year 2005-06, the Bureau received 6,075 applications, and processed 4,467 certificates with an average processing time of 55 days. There are 19,954 active certificates.

Agency and Agent Permits

Many schools hire agents to help them market and recruit students to their particular school. The Reform Act requires that all recruitment agencies and agents have a permit issued by the Bureau. Agencies are required to post a \$250,000 surety bond, and individual agents are required to post a \$25,000 surety bond. An agent must maintain a

separate permit and bond for each institution represented. A permit is valid for one calendar year.

In fiscal year 2005-06, the Bureau received 1,513 applications and processed 1,505 permits with an average processing time of 50 days. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 2,586 active agent permits and 1 active agency permit.

Registered Institutions

The Bureau also oversees a category of institutions offering five types of short-term educational programs to consumers. The five educational services requiring registration with the Bureau are: intensive English language programs; short-term career training; short-term seminar training; license and exam preparation; and continuing education.

One key difference from the approval process used for degree and non-degree institutions is that the Bureau is not required to conduct a site visit prior to approving a registered institution, but may conduct one where warranted. The Reform Act establishes a minimal set of requirements for each of the five programs, such as limitations on the number of hours of instruction and cost of tuition.

The enactment of SB 1544 (Chapter 740, Statutes 2004) exempted from Bureau oversight schools exclusively offering classes for \$500 or less. In addition, the law repealed the definition of “short-term seminar training,” but did not remove the term from the list of educational services requiring registration under California Education Code (CEC) section 94931(c). In its place, SB 1544 established a new “short-term education program,” but did not include this term in the list under CEC section 94931(c). This drafting error initially made it difficult for the Bureau to regulate these programs. In response, the Legislature enacted SB 1108 (Chapter 22, Statutes 2005) to clarify that short-term seminar training is equivalent to short-term education program.

The Bureau oversees approximately 517 registered institutions throughout California. In fiscal year 2005-06, the Bureau received 159 registered applications and processed 77 registrations with an average processing time of 90 days.

Religious Exempt Institutions

The Reform Act exempts any nonprofit institution owned, controlled, operated, and maintained by a bona fide church, religious denomination, or religious organization. The education offered by the institution is limited to instruction in the principles of that church, religious denomination, or religious organization, and the diploma or degree conferred by the institution is limited to evidence of completion of that education. Institutions that are exempt can offer degrees and diplomas only in the beliefs and practices of the church. They cannot award degrees in any area of physical science or in any secular areas of study. Religious institutions that wish to be exempt from the Reform Act must provide, each year, evidence demonstrating that they qualify for exemption.

In fiscal year 2005-06, there were 40 religious schools that had qualified for exemption. The Bureau received 264 applications and approved 203 exemption requests.

Title 38 Program

The Bureau has also been designated the California State Approving Agency (CA/SAA) for veterans receiving Montgomery GI Bill benefits for education and training under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38. The CA/SAA has responsibility for approving and monitoring educational programs for veterans and their dependents; eligible members of the National Guard; and other qualified members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air National Guard. Based on federal reporting for the 2005-06 program year, the Bureau in its CA/SAA role has been responsible for overseeing over 1,000 approved institutions (of which 668 had actively enrolled eligible individuals), with an estimated enrollment of over 45,000 veterans annually. The unit is funded through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), through a cost reimbursement contract with strict performance and accountability criteria. The program recently received notice from the DVA that the Bureau achieved the highest possible rating during the 2005/06 fiscal year for its performance under the federal contract. At this time, the CA/SAA is the only federal fund stream within the Department of Consumer Affairs.

During the 05-06 fiscal year, staff reviewed over 20,000 applications for veterans' programs exceeding all contracted goals in conducting school reviews and providing services necessary to ensure compliance with federal instructional and administrative guidelines. Contract goals include quantitative standards for program approvals; new school applications; school site visits; outreach (including presentation briefings at conferences and events); technical assistance; and staff development. In addition to original approval visits, staff also conducted over 540 supervisory visits against a contract goal of 521.

Title 38 approved institutions in California offer training to veterans in virtually every demand market occupation. Unlike other Bureau units, the CA/SAA institutions include all public higher education--the University of California, State University, and Community College systems. In fact, the CA/SAA is a member of the Governor's "Troops to College" initiative aimed at increasing veteran enrollment in these educational segments.

As the CA/SAA, the Bureau has been very active in the efforts of the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs' training and education meetings. This has not only increased the State's profile on a national level, but has also enabled the Bureau to influence national planning strategies related to SAA funding levels and to study a "Total Force GI Bill" to be introduced during the 110th Congress. Staff serve on several NASAA committees, including Contracts, Automation, and Honors and Awards. The CA/SAA looks forward to continued success in working with a variety of customers including the DVA., NASAA, California veterans, and the educational institutions that serve them.

Complaint Mediation

The Bureau has long lacked the resources necessary to formally conduct field investigations for every consumer complaint filed against an institution. In response, in September 2005 the Bureau initiated a centralized program aimed at providing more timely and substantive assistance to students with school-related complaints. The program channels all consumer complaints through the Department's Complaint Mediation Program where they are acknowledged, in writing, within 10 days of receipt and assigned to staff for handling.

The complaint mediation process represents a form of dispute resolution, and often requires a thorough review of the information presented by the student and the institution to determine whether the student's allegations have merit. It attempts to resolve complaints by having staff communicate directly via telephone with both the student and the school that is the subject of the complaint.

In cases involving a pattern of complaints against a school, a pattern of non-compliance with Bureau laws and regulations, or serious allegations such as health and safety or fraud that cannot be mediated, the Bureau will direct resources from its Enforcement Program to investigate the issues.

Using the Complaint Mediation Program has allowed the Bureau to focus its limited resources on the approval of completed applications for compliant schools and on critical investigations for schools that have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance.

In fiscal year 2005-06, the Department and Bureau processed 656 consumer complaints that had been filed against private postsecondary institutions, 35% of which related to contractual issues and another 29% of which related to fraud. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 137 complaints pending.

Enforcement

A key function of any regulatory program is the enforcement of its laws and regulations. The purpose of regulating the private postsecondary educational sector is to protect students, employers, and the general public. This market is also regulated to ensure that degrees and certificates awarded by a private institution are equivalent to degrees and certificates awarded by other private and public institutions.

Generally, there are three main purposes to regulating the private postsecondary educational sector:

- To ensure that educational outcomes promised to students by Bureau-approved institutions are achieved;

- To ensure that students educated by approved institutions, who enter the labor market, have learned the job skills that employers need and expect from students; and
- To ensure that students who are awarded degrees and certificates meet specific minimum standards established by other regulatory agencies.

Pursuant to the Reform Act, the Bureau may initiate an administrative, civil, and/or criminal action when there is evidence that the institution has violated the act or any Bureau regulations. Although the Bureau may initiate an investigation, success is contingent on a strong working relationship with local municipalities, district attorneys' offices, and law enforcement agencies.

Institutions may request a hearing to appeal the Bureau's administrative action. If the institution requests a hearing, the hearing may be heard by an administrative law judge employed by the Office of Administrative Hearings or by the Bureau.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the administrative law judge or hearing officer must prepare a formal decision and proposed order of decision. The proposed decision and order are reviewed by Bureau management and then reviewed for possible adoption by the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

In fiscal year 2005-06, the Bureau initiated 98 enforcement cases; 31 cases were closed within the same time period and 31 were sent to the Attorney General's Office for representation on cases involving such allegations as unlicensed activity, award of fraudulent diplomas, and failure to pay fees.

In addition, the Bureau completed 28 site inspections of individual institutions to ascertain their compliance with Bureau laws and regulations.

Annual Report from Institutions

The Reform Act requires that degree and non-degree institutions regulated by the Bureau annually file a report. The annual reporting requirement does not apply to registered, religious exempt or Title 38 approved schools.

The purpose of this reporting requirement is to provide the Bureau with the following information:

- Student population information;
- Number and types of degrees and diplomas awarded;
- Financial information demonstrating the institution's compliance with statutory requirements;
- Program enrollment, completion and placement data;
- Regular compliance reports from institutions on probation or operating under a conditional approval; and

- Statistical information regarding the private postsecondary market to be used in the Bureau's annual report to the Legislature.

The 2004 Annual Report produced the following aggregate data for Bureau regulated private postsecondary institutions:

- 281,970 total students
 - ✓ 38,877 degree
 - ✓ 243,093 non-degree
- 156,183 total number of degrees and diplomas awarded
 - ✓ 8,007 degree
 - ✓ 148,176 non-degree
- Completion rate for students
 - ✓ 29% degree
 - ✓ 62% non-degree
- Placement rate for students
 - ✓ 25% degree
 - ✓ 54% non-degree

Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF)

STRF was established in the Reform Act to relieve and mitigate pecuniary losses suffered by any California resident who is a student of an institution holding an approval. Students are entitled to file a claim against STRF if they prepaid tuition and suffered a financial loss due to the institution closing, or they did not receive the quality or value of the education they were entitled to receive.

The Bureau received 178 STRF claims in fiscal year 2005-06. The Bureau also processed 189 claims, some of which were received in the prior fiscal year, representing approximately \$1.2 million in monies returned to students affected by a school closure.

All monies deposited into STRF are derived from quarterly assessments of institutions collecting a STRF fee from their students. The amount of the STRF fee is \$2.50 for every \$1,000 of tuition paid by enrolled students. To be eligible for STRF, the student must be a California resident and not have had his or her tuition paid by a third party such as a vocational rehabilitation program.

Monies collected from the STRF assessment are deposited into three separate STRF accounts based on the type of institution in which the student is enrolled (i.e., degree, non-degree, and registered.) The degree and non-degree accounts have a statutorily established limit of \$1.5 million and \$4.5 million, respectively.

Because funds in the degree account exceeded the statutory limit of \$1.5 million, the Bureau by law had to cease collection of STRF assessments in fiscal year 2005-06 from any degree institution that had been approved by the Bureau for at least four years. This action substantially reduced the amount of funds collected from degree schools last fiscal year.

The current assessment methodology does not appear to generate sufficient revenues to pay all STRF claims from students financially impacted by the closure of a non-degree institution. While the Bureau has authority to levy a special assessment if the balance in any one of the STRF accounts falls below \$250,000, it has chosen not to pursue such action. This decision is, in large part, due to pending litigation involving the Bureau's last attempt to levy a special assessment on institutions in 2002. The Department and Bureau elected to address the STRF shortfall through the legislative process.

SB 1473, which was held in committee in early 2006, included a provision to stabilize STRF and enable timely processing of all eligible student claims, without raising the amount of the STRF fee. The proposal called for merging the separate institution-based accounts into one and raising the combined statutory cap of the fund to \$10 million.

School Closures

Most closures are orderly, in that the school waits until the students complete their programs before the institution closes, therefore minimizing any negative impacts to the students.

However, some institutions close without warning and the Bureau's intervention and resource requirements become extensive. In these cases, typically the Bureau hears about the closure through the students and all efforts become reactive rather than proactive. Even in these situations, the Bureau is able to provide assistance to the students with the preferable solution being teach-outs or transfers to nearby institutions.

The law requires any school that closes to maintain its student records (5 years for a vocational school and 50 years for a degree granting school.) However, when a school does not comply with the law, the Bureau ends up becoming the repository of these records. The Bureau takes on this responsibility to ensure that the students have access to their transcripts. In 2001, two large degree schools closed and the Bureau spent most of 2004 organizing these records for future student requests.

Last fiscal year, the Bureau handled 143 school closures, representing approximately 4% of all regulated private postsecondary institutions.

Appendix

Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Advisory Committee (as of December 2006)

George “Jay” Achenbach

Elena Ackel

Mitchell Fuerst, Chair

Norma Ford

Pastor Herrera, Jr.

Dr. Lolly Horn, Vice-Chair

Dr. Betty Sundberg

Salvador Velasquez